



Washington  
State Department of  
Agriculture

## PLANT PROTECTION DIVISION PEST PROGRAM

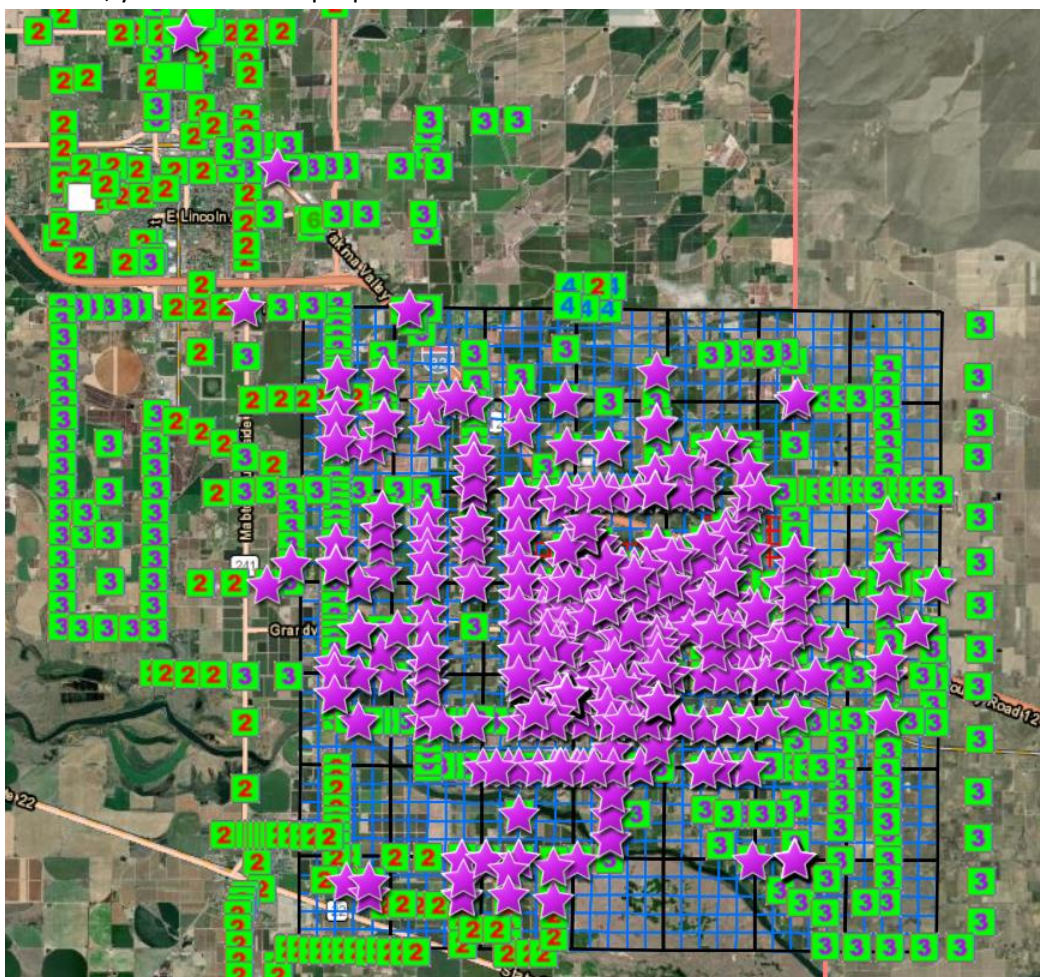
### JAPANESE BEETLE BLAST #21.04 – SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

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#### NEW DETECTIONS

WSDA is intensively trapping for Japanese beetle around the Grandview area in both Yakima and Benton counties. Over 23,500 beetles have been caught in 650 traps stretching over 49 square miles. This is the largest infestation of Japanese beetle ever recorded in Washington state.

View the map below to see current traps and catches. A green square is a trap; if the trap has caught any Japanese beetles, you will see the purple star overlaid.



## WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

Japanese beetle is a non-native pest that feeds on over 300 plants by skeletonizing leaves. Their larvae feed on plant roots below the surface. Japanese beetles can lay many eggs in a cycle, making them very hard to control or eradicate.

Japanese beetle would pose a serious threat to farms, gardens, and the environment if they were to become established in Washington state.



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## HOW DID JB GET HERE?

Japanese beetle is a scarab beetle native to Japan. It was first found in New Jersey in 1916. Since that time it has slowly spread and become established in about half of the country.

Invasive species have pathways, which are the means and routes by which invasive species are introduced into new environments. As an adult Japanese beetle can move many miles by hitchhiking on airplanes, trucks, and trains. Their larvae hide under the soil and be spread by moving potted plants, compost, grass clippings, or fill.

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## HOW MANY BEETLES MAKES A PROBLEM?



Each year WSDA deploys over 1,500 traps to monitor for Japanese beetle. The program traps around nurseries and farms throughout the state. However, most traps are placed at potential pathways, like airports, railways, or transfer stations. Each year a trap or two may catch one beetle. The beetle is then removed and unable to reproduce.

If any trap were to detect multiple beetles, the response becomes serious, and the potential for Japanese beetle to establish becomes a present concern. Oregon Department of Agriculture estimated that if JB were to establish, the economic impact to their crops, commodities, and other related businesses could be approximately \$45.5 million.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

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### HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PEST? – REPORT IT!

If you have seen Japanese beetle, please report it! Take a picture and note the location. You can report sightings using our online [reporting map and form](#). Or you can email us at [PestProgram@agr.wa.gov](mailto:PestProgram@agr.wa.gov), or call 1-800-443-6684.

## SHOULD I TRAP FOR JAPANESE BEETLE?

You can trap for Japanese beetle yourself! Trapping will catch adult beetles, which can lower their current population, and is another way to control this pest. There are a wide variety of traps available for purchase, or you can make one yourself. When placing a trap, remember to keep it on your property, and you may want to place it away from your favorite tree. Make sure to check your trap periodically and replace as needed.



If you live near Grandview, a drop-off cooler has been placed inside Blehyl Co-op at 940 E Wine Country Road. You can leave your collected beetles there.

## SHOULD I TREAT FOR JAPANESE BEETLE?

If you have encountered Japanese beetle on your property, you may want to consider treating your property for this destructive pest. Washington State University has provided [homeowner control options](#). You will want to use the appropriate treatment for the beetle's life cycle, which varies at different times of year.



**USE APPROPRIATE PESTICIDES**

**May to mid-July:**  
Treat lawn with 'Preventative' (**green table**)

**Other months:**  
Treat lawn with 'Curative' (**blue table**)

**All summer:**  
Kill adults (**red table**) or put insect into a bucket of soapy water

**Match 'Active Ingredient' in table with the one on the product you are using**

## JAPANESE BEETLE COUNT PASSES 20,000

Sound the alarm, ring the bell, this is not good news. If established in our state, we could see dire results to our crops, our gardens, and even our grass. [Read more about this invasive pest doubling the human population in Grandview.](#)

## INTERNAL QUARANTINE

WSDA is in the process of establishing a quarantine for Japanese beetle in the Grandview area. This will impact parts of Yakima County, Benton County, and other areas of the state found to be infested. The quarantine is intended to prevent the spread of this invasive pest and protect Washington's agricultural industries, as well as maintain access to national and international markets. Updates are available on the [Japanese Beetle Quarantine rulemaking page](#).

## STAY CONNECTED

WSDA is dedicated to working with the public to provide information on Japanese beetle. WSDA has taken pictures of the pest around the Grandview area, to view images please visit [flicker.com/wsdagov](https://www.flickr.com/photos/wsdagov/).

View the [Pest Alert](#) for Japanese beetle.

- Join the [Japanese beetle Facebook group](#).
- Join the [Pest Program email listserv](#).
- Follow WSDA on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [Twitter](#).